

Timsbury Road Safety Group Petition Statement

Good evening. My name is Sheila Clarke and we are representing the Timsbury Road Safety Group and we wish to lodge with you our petition. The petition asks for a short section of South Road, Timsbury to be added to the BANES gritting schedule in times of severe weather. **The section of road measures just 200 metres.**

On this stretch of road there are two care homes: The Laurels, a Residential Care Home for the Elderly and Infirm and the Leonard Cheshire Disability Residential Home with Nursing.

Together they provide residential care for 69 residents, as well as day-care for eight people. They are looked after by 140 full and part-time staff and a significant number of volunteers – all of whom can be extremely vulnerable during severe weather conditions.

Past experiences have proved that emergency medical care, nursing and support staff and family visitors have found it very difficult to get to the homes because of ice and snow. **Essential supplies, including fresh meat has had to be delivered in a wheelbarrow!**

For two years now BANES have offered reasons why gritting the approach road to these homes cannot be gritted. These include; BANES already meet their obligations; Timsbury has its share of gritted roads; there is nowhere for the gritting vehicle to turn around; There is not time on the schedule to grit that 200m and there is not enough room for the extra grit on the vehicle.

With respect we do not accept these reasons. We feel that BANES is ignoring their duty of care to vulnerable residents who often need emergency care – one resident requires weekly dialysis in Bristol. We feel that gritting should be applied on a basis of NEED not SHARE. Permission has already been granted for the gritting vehicle to turn around in the Leonard Cheshire Home and there is plenty of room to do so. The extra gritting would take 3 minutes including turning. The extra amount of grit needed for 200m, based on published gritting densities, would be 10Kg – equivalent to 10 bags of sugar!

Gritting staff have access to up-to the-minute weather forecasts so can immobilise the gritting vehicle at the most effective time. Mechanical gritting is far more cost effective than manual spreading.

Our petition has the support of the Parish Council, District Councillor, local MP, the Chief Executive of South Western Ambulance, NHS Foundation Trust, local GP's the Disability Access Group and **600 villagers.**

We appeal to BANES to reconsider this extremely concerning matter, include this 200m section of road in the gritting schedule and give peace of mind to these vulnerable residents without delay.

Thank you.

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